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Type specimens of new forms of *Lonchura*

by Mary LeCroy

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Recently, a number of new taxa of *Lonchura* finches have been proposed (Restall, 1992, 1995, 1996), and a book has since appeared in which these names are used (Restall 1997). The types of some of these new forms are in the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH). Several problems have arisen in relation to these names and this note is an attempt to clarify certain nomenclatural points, in part relevant to future publication of a list of types in the AMNH.

***Lonchura punctulata holmesi* Restall** (1995: 141). This taxon was previously validly described by Restall (1992: 115). Restall (1995: 141, 1997: 103) does not refer to the earlier description, which was apparently based on 29 living specimens, nine from "the country east of Pontianak" and "twenty shipped to Jakarta from Banjarmasin," all of which would be syntypes. Three specimens, apparently the only three preserved, have been deposited at the AMNH (Nos 831281, 831282, and 831283), and are said to be from Semitau. In compliance with the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) Article 74(a) (Ride, 1985: 153), I nominate specimen No. 831281 as the lectotype. The place of origin of the lectotype then becomes the type locality of the taxon (Article 74(a) (iii)), this being Semitau (0°30'N, 111°59'E), west Kalimantan, Indonesia. The other two extant

specimens are paralectotypes, also said to have come from Semitau. Pontianak, referred to above, is at 0°05'S, 109°16'E, approximately 150 km southwest from Semitau. Bandjarmarsin is a port on the south coast of Kalimantan at 3°22'S, 114°33'E, far distant from the other two localities. Further consideration of the status of *L. p. holmesi* will be made by Mees (ms) in a wider review of the various subspecies of *Lonchura punctulata*.

None of the specimens is sexed, and Restall (1995: 141) explicitly states that there is no sexual difference in colouration; therefore, his mention of sexual differences in size seems unsupported. If there are behavioural differences between the sexes, these should have been stated. Restall (1992: 116; 1997: 104) illustrates that his tail measurements, presumably from living birds, were made from the wingtip to tailtip. This is, of course, an unreliable skin measurement due to variations in the "make" of skins, and his measurements are not comparable to those of skins. He does not state how his other measurements were made.

***Lonchura striata sumatrensis*.** As Snow (1997) pointed out, Chasen & Hoogerwerf (1941: 116) did not name this form, *contra* Restall (1995: 142). Chasen (1939: 183) first named it *Munia striata sumatrensis*. Upon discovering that the name was preoccupied by *Munia sumatrensis* of Bartlett (1888), he provided the new name *M. s. explita* (Chasen, 1940: 261). Chasen (1939: 183) designated as the holotype of *Munia striata sumatrensis* (and thus of *M. s. explita*) specimen No. 11249 in the Buitenzorg Museum (=Museum Zoologicum Bogoriense, Bogor, Indonesia), from Blang Kedjeren, Atjeh, 800 m, Sumatra (see Snow 1997: 4). This specimen is now in Leiden (Mees, 1986: 147).

Restall (1995: 142 *et seq.*) cites Paynter & Storer (1970) when referring to the treatment of *Lonchura* in the *Check-list of Birds of the World*, but as Snow (1997: 4) has noted, this is not the volume that contains the Estrildidae; the correct citation is Mayr *et al.* (1968).

Contra Restall (1995: 142), *Lonchura striata explita* is not listed in Mayr *et al.* (1968: 374) as a synonym of *L. s. subsquamericollis*. Rather, a footnote states that Delacour's (1947: 335) use of that name is a lapsus and a *nomen nudum*. The above discussion shows that Delacour's use of *explita* was correct, but he did not propose the name as Restall (1995: 142) states.

As the above discussion also shows, the name *sumatrensis* is not available for the Sumatra population of *L. striata*. Even if it were, one could not arbitrarily take a "good" specimen from Sumatra and declare it a type (=neotype), unless the material upon which Chasen based *sumatrensis* is shown to be lost, ICZN Article 75 (d) (3) (Ride, 1985: 159). This is not the case, therefore specimen No. ZRC.3.3500 in the National University of Singapore has no standing as a type.

Restall (1997: 82) uses the unavailable name *L. striata sumatrensis* Chasen without comment.

***Lonchura quinticolor sumbae* Restall** (1995: 143). Restall (1997: 104, 135) uses the name *sumbae* for races of two species of *Lonchura* (*L. punctulata* and *L. quinticolor*) without comment. According to ICZN

Article 57(b) (Ride, 1985: 145), Restall's name *L. quinticolor sumbae* is a primary homonym of *Lonchura punctulata sumbae* Mayr (1944: 169). If the central Lesser Sunda populations are distinct, a replacement name will be needed for them.

The type designated by Restall is in The Natural History Museum (formerly the British Museum (Natural History), BMNH). Robert Prŷs-Jones (*in litt.*) has informed me that the date of collection of this specimen is Sept. 1896, not 1898 as given by Restall (1995: 143).

***Lonchura monticola myolae* Restall** (1995: 145). One of the syntypes of *Lonchura monticola myolae* Restall, AMNH No. 721469 (not 421469), is from Mt. Knutsford (not Knotsford), in the Owen Stanley Mountains, south of Mt. Scratchley, Papua New Guinea. The other, AMNH No. 721471 (not 421471), is from Mt. Scratchley, the type locality of *Lonchura monticola*. The description of *Munia monticola* (DeVis 1897: 387) was based on two males, three females and an unsexed spirit specimen. They were collected at 3,750 m on Mt. Scratchley by A. Giulianetti, on a trek from the Mambare to the Vanapa rivers with Sir William MacGregor (not on Mt. "Edward Albert," [=Albert Edward] as stated by Restall). The skin syntypes are in the Queensland Museum in Brisbane, Nos QMO.19788–QMO.19792, 16 September–1 October 1896; the unsexed spirit specimen could not be found in April 1998 (H. Janetzki, *in litt.*). Sharpe (1898: 60) described *Munia migratoria* from Mt. Albert Edward; it is a synonym of *Lonchura monticola*, and the holotype is in the BMNH, No. 1898.5.31.15.

Contra Restall (1995: 145), I see no mention in Coates (1990: 346–347) of any noticeably richer colour in any population of this species. Coates (1990: 342, 347) refers to hybridization between this species and *L. spectabilis* at Guari, which Restall (1997: 173, 174) interprets as referring to a possibly undescribed population. Hicks (1987: 60) saw *Lonchura monticola* at Myola, in the Owen Stanley Mountains, the locality from which the proposed name is derived. This is a downward extension of the altitudinal range of the species, but Hicks does not mention any noticeable differences in colour and there are no specimens from Myola.

I designate AMNH No. 721471 as the lectotype of *Lonchura monticola myolae*, type locality Mt. Scratchley, Papua New Guinea. AMNH No. 721469 is then a paralectotype. Because the type localities of the syntypes of *Lonchura monticola monticola* and the lectotype of *L. monticola myolae* are the same, *myolae* becomes a junior synonym of *monticola*, as is *migratoria*. If, in the future, specimens are collected at Myola and found to differ from the nominate form then *myolae* would not be available. This applies also to the Myola population of *L. caniceps*, should it be found to differ (Restall, 1997: 149).

Mayr & Rand (1937: 245) identified specimens collected on Mt. Albert Edward and in Murray Pass as *L. monticola*. Thus the range of this monotypic species stretches from Mt. Albert Edward at least to Mt. Knutsford in the Owen Stanley Mountains, including the Wharton Range, with the status of the population at Guari, west of Mt. Albert Edward, still to be determined.

There are confusing contradictions in the ornithological literature as to exactly what the Wharton Range comprises. W. S. Peckover (ms) is preparing a gazetteer to ornithological collecting localities in the New Guinea area, and he defines the Wharton Range as a 16 km long ridge extending from Murray Pass (13 km south of Mt. Albert Edward East Dome) to 5.5 km north-northwest of Mr. Scratchley. It is that part of the Owen Stanley Mts. that lies between 08°30' and 08°40'S and between 147°20' and 147°28'E. Thus it includes Murray Pass but does not include either Mt. Albert Edward or Mt. Scratchley.

Lonchura tristissima bigilalae Restall (1995: 148) and *Lonchura leucosticta moresbyae* Restall (1995: 149). Snow (1997: 4) noted that the spelling of these two names should be amended to *L. t. bigilalei*, named for Ilaiah Bigilale, Principal Curator—Natural History, at the National Museum and Art Gallery in Port Moresby, and *L. l. moresbyi*, presumably on the grounds that Port Moresby was named by Captain John Moresby in honor of his father, Admiral Sir Fairfax Moresby (Wichmann 1910: 179). However, Restall (1995: 149) specifically states that the name is derived from the locality; thus, it should be spelled *moresbyensis*.

No mention is made by Restall of the fact that Coates (1990: 336–338) has taken the zoogeographically logical step of considering *leucosticta* to be a subspecies of *tristissima* as, where the ranges overlap in West Irian, Indonesia, intergrades are known (Mees 1958), and there is an intermediate population in the Port Moresby area (Coates 1990: 337). Following Coates's taxonomy, I would expect that the population of *tristissima* reported to Restall by Hicks (*in litt.*) from the Kiunga area is *L. tristissima leucosticta*. The type locality of that taxon is "300 miles up the Fly River," and it has been collected at Lake Daviumbu, both localities not far from Kiunga; however, specimens from this area are badly needed.

There is no information on the labels of the syntypes of *bigilalei* and the holotype of *moresbyensis* to indicate exactly where they were taken, who took them, or whether they were even wild-caught. Specimens with full data are needed from the Port Moresby area. Until more is known about the variability within this population, and whether or not escaped cage birds have contributed to the variability, it is impossible to evaluate these two new taxa.

Restall's ranges of the various subspecies are a confusing combination of the old and new literature. For example, he says (p. 146): "I concluded that the four races of *L. tristissima* recognized by Paynter and Storer [=Mayr *et al.* 1968, see above] can be clearly separated and the confusion about them reduced significantly." Mayr *et al.* (1968: 378–379) recognized only three subspecies of *L. tristissima*, considering *leucosticta* a separate species. It is Coates's (1990) treatment of the subspecies' ranges that lists four subspecies of *tristissima*, including *leucosticta*.

Restall's map (p. 147), outlining the ranges of the different subspecies of "tristissima", is misleading. In Rand & Gilliard (1967: 596) the range of *L. t. hypomelaena* is restricted to the Weyland Mountains, and this is weakly supported by an examination of the

specimens in the AMNH. Specimens in the AMNH from southwestern New Guinea, other than those from the Weylands, more closely match northern watershed birds and are included in *L. t. caliminoros*. Specimens from across its wide range are variable, but this seems to be individual, or perhaps clinal variation. Specimens from the Noord River east to the Port Moresby area in the south are *leucosticta*. The question of whether there is subspecific differentiation within this population, and the status of the ‘intermediate’ population in the Port Moresby area, must await a study of specimens with full locality data. In all populations, the width of the black bar above the yellowish rump varies individually and with the make of the skin. Karkar Island is shown on the map but the birds from this locality are discussed in the text under the older name of Dampier Island, without comment. The question mark on the map in the Kiunga area is discussed above.

Restall (1997: 110–117) again discusses these populations, but until careful comparisons are made of specimens from throughout the range with reliable locality data, such discussion is premature. Descriptions of colours based on sight records are not sufficient.

***Lonchura maja vietnamensis* Restall** (1995: 151). The “type”, presumably syntypes, listed by Restall (1995: 151) have not as yet been deposited in the AMNH.

***Lonchura atricapilla obscura* Restall** (1995: 154). Snow (1997: 4) has noted that Restall’s holotype of this form is AMNH No. 447931, male, collected at Parit, Tjempaga, Sampit, S. Borneo (= Kalimantan, Indonesia). However, it was said to have been collected on 3 July 1935, based on incorrect information that I supplied. No. 447931 was collected on 16 June 1935. The paratype, No. 447932, was collected on 3 July 1935, at the same locality. This locality is given by Mayr (1938: 5) as “Parit, which is at the Tjempaga (Chamaga) River, about 20 miles above its junction with the Sampit River.” This locality is shown on the map in Smythies (1981).

These two birds were reported by Restall (1995: 154) as being in a “collection from south Borneo by Ernst Mayr”. They were reported on by Mayr (1938) but collected by J. J. Menden for the AMNH in south Borneo in 1935.

Restall’s (1997: 129) statement that “In discovering these dark-backed birds, Mayr (1938) obviously referred back to *minuta* to distinguish them, but I have renamed them to solve the problem of misnaming” is obscure to me. Mayr (1938: 45) listed Menden’s birds under *Lonchura atricapilla minuta* following Stresemann (1922: 88), who noted that *Fringilla minuta* Meyen was an older name, based on a young specimen, for what was later named *Munia (Dermophrys) jagori* by Martens.

Subsequent to Mayr’s paper, Salomonsen (1953: 267) noted that *Fringilla minuta* Meyen 1834 is preoccupied by both *Fringilla minuta* Temminck 1807 and *Fringilla minuta* Wied 1830 and that *jagori* is the oldest available name. Salomonsen (1953: 266), however, considered that birds from all of Borneo belonged to *L. malacca gregalis* (type locality Mindanao), a subspecies that he had just described. This race was synonomized with *jagori* by Mayr *et al.* (1968: 381), who followed

Salomonsen in a broad interpretation of the species *Lonchura malacca*, including in it the populations formerly separated as *L. atricapilla*. Restall (1995: 152–154) gives his reasons for recognizing *atricapilla* as a separate species.

If comparisons are made between living birds or recently collected specimens and older museum specimens, the potential for colour change with age of specimen needs to be addressed. Restall named the south Borneo population based on the darker colouration of the live specimens he saw and painted, but noted that Menden's specimens have foxed until they are little different from the north Borneo birds (*i.e.*, do not match Restall's living birds). Yet he uses one of these very specimens as the type. Mayr refrained from naming Menden's birds even though he noted that they were darker, probably suspecting that such foxing would occur.

***Lonchura atricapilla selimbae* Restall** (1995: 155). The spelling of this name should be amended to *selimbauensis* (Snow, 1997: 4). The holotype is AMNH No. 831285, said to be from Selimbau 0°37'N, 112°08'E, Kalimantan Barut (=Barat), Indonesia. Both the holotype and a second specimen (AMNH No. 831284) from the same locality are unsexed. Presumably, the range of measurements of males and females given are based on the larger series of living birds seen by Restall, but we are not told how they were sexed, nor how the measurements were made.

See above for a discussion of the nomenclature of Bornean populations of *L. atricapilla* (*=L. malacca*).

***Lonchura pallidiventer* Restall** (1996: 137) named this species, designating AMNH specimen No. 831287 as the holotype. The paratype (not syntype), a mummy, is AMNH No. 831288 (not 8311288).

Recently, van Balen (1998: 118) has suggested that these specimens may represent hybridization between *L. punctulata* and *L. leucogastra*.

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Three bird species new to Venezuela and notes on the behaviour and distribution of other poorly known species

by Steven L. Hilty

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The studies of Phelps & Phelps (1950, 1958, 1963), Schäfer & Phelps (1954), and Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps (1978) greatly advanced